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## OXFORD DEMOCRAT,

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## POPULAR TALKS.

From the Olive Branch.

### THE SPIDER CAUGHT IN HIS OWN WEB.

One morning at an inn, in a southern State, where I had lodged the preceding night, as I lay ruminating on the bright eyes and warm hearts I had left behind me, and already anticipating the delightful raptures which I trusted were in store for me at a future day in returning to my family and friends, I looked upon one of these busy little insects above-mentioned, who in one corner of the ceiling was ever & anon pouncing upon an unfortunate fly, as it unconsciously entered the snare of this many legged Fowler. He appeared to be reaping a glorious harvest, the rascal; all were fish that came to net with him—not a tiny animal set foot or wing within his precincts but he whirled the little being round in his fangs, casting over it the fibres of his web, and there left his strangled victim for the indulgence of his appetite I presume at leisure.

But presently game of rather an odd character seemed to present itself in the shape of another spider of a larger and altogether different species from the one alluded to. In stalked the giant looking dignitary, without the ceremony of a knock, at the portals of the plump little fellow whose domain he was invading, and who appeared petrified with astonishment at the impudence of the intruder; but there he came, with a slow and sure pace, right up to the owner of the soil; and as much as to say, 'your turn comes next,' he very nimbly seized upon the little animal, and to spite of his struggles, actually twisted and twisted him up in an almost impenetrable veil, till at length all motion ceased, and he left him hanging among his victims, in his own web! Yes, readers he was caught in his own web! Can we not make nothing of this trivial circumstance?—will it furnish no moral, or recall no incidents of human life resembling it to the very letter? Ah! you may depend upon it that it has not been the only spider who was caught in the net he spread for others; and we will give you, if you please, one instance out of many, (alas! for poor human nature!) which have occurred in this unhappy world of depravity.

JOSEPH WORMSLEY was one of the most covetous creatures that ever existed, scarcely an hour of his long life passed that he did not violate the tenth commandment, in some way or other for even in his sleep he dreamt of the possessions of others, and would frequently fancy he had managed matters so as to get them to himself, and he might be heard by a fellow-lodger in the next room to chuckle at the thought of his dexterity in ousting the envious possessor from his own.

By dint of industry and frugality, (or more properly speaking, parsimony,) he became the proprietor of a comfortable and moderately profitable farm in the western country, adjoining that of his friend and benefactor, Mr. William Clermont, under whose hospitable roof he remained for some time after his arrival in this country, and from whom he obtained every assistance necessary towards establishing himself in the business of a trading land-holder.

The farm of Mr. Clermont was more extensive, though perhaps not much more productive than his own but many a sigh did it cost him, as he looked with a longing eye upon the little fields of the Clermont estate, to think they were not his own; neither was there the most distant probability that such would ever be the case. Mr. Clermont was of a very amiable family, and inherited all good qualities of his ancestors; he generally however, observed the fair side of human nature, and studiously avoided the reverse; believing in the excellency of his heart, that it was not necessary to notice the bad, but rather to search out and admire the good traits of character in others.

Now this, to a certain extent, may answer the pursuits of life, and make one feel, doubtless, contented and happy; but, bless me! it will very often produce discontent, vexations and losses, when we least expect either. I have, however, been frequently at a loss to discover what good traits of character Mr. Clermont found in Jasper Wormsley; it is true, he could make himself very agreeable sometimes, and would entertain his friend for hours on the subject of the old country, as he termed it; but without that his character, as regarded goodness, was a blank—he never thought of doing a good action in his life, and as to disinterestedness, he never took it into his head to inquire its meaning.

Nevertheless, Clermont and Wormsley were inseparable; and I do verily believe, that if the latter had seriously at one time solicited the former for half his extensive property, it would have been given; but this, Wormsley concluded would rather be venturing too much upon the liberality of his patron, who had already so largely contributed to his early wants and comfort.

It was in the month of October, '06, when the

little Clermonts were sent to the house of Jasper Wormsley, till, as they were told their father should get better. He had been confined, for some time, with a fever which, from its obstinacy, required constant watchfulness and undisturbed quiet, which the innocent prattle of little Sue, and the forgetful playfulness of William and Jane, would not, but with great difficulty, permit. Poor things! they were soon to be left in the wide world fatherless, as they had for some time before motherless, and to be given over, at their young and tender age, to the control of other hands and hearts than those of kind and affectionate parents.

A message came with the children from Mr. Clermont, requesting Mr. Wormsley to visit him that evening, as he was easier and desired an interview with him on business. The sick man lay in his bed, with scarcely strength to extend his hand, when Wormsley, in compliance with his request, entered his chamber.

'Be seated, friend Wormsley,' he said. 'I have sent for you to complete my will'—he continued—'and to inform you of its contents—not doubting for a moment that your friendship for me will dispose you cheerfully to comply with one wish I have expressed in it.'

'Certainly! my friend, certainly,' answered Wormsley, 'have you it all prepared!—ready for signature?'

'You will find it in that drawer, Mr. Wormsley; but first I would converse with you in relation to the trust I am about to repose in you—a trust which alone has sprung out of a conviction of the sincerity of your friendship—may, do not interrupt me, I feel, dear sir, conscious that my end is approaching, and therefore—in short, my friend, I commit to your care and protection, the little infants my dear departed Julia left me—and, with them, I leave wholly to your management and control, my earthly possession; when William is of age I wish him and his sisters to be received into their hands all that I thus entrust to you—But you will find it all in the paper in your hands.'

The voice of Clermont trembled at every word—and he lay pale and exhausted while Wormsley opened and read over the contents of his benefactor's will: they have been already briefly, and doubtless, sufficiently explained. Relying on the close friendship that had so long existed, as he supposed, between himself and his intended executor, Clermont had placed entirely in his hands all his vast estate, to be held by him in trust for the benefit of his children, who, so soon as the eldest living should arrive at the years of maturity, were to receive it and hold it as their own;—in the mean time Wormsley was to be their sole guardian, and authorized to defray all expenses incident to their education out of the ample profits of the estate. 'My dear friend,' resumed Mr. Clermont, 'I am assured my confidence is well placed—call in young Hartley and old John Harrowman—he will do for the other witness—I believed the law requires two.'

It does, my friend said Wormsley and immediately the two persons referred to were requested to enter the room.

The document was placed in the hands of the dying Clermont, he acknowledged it as his last will and testament—signed it with his feverish, trembling hands, and sunk on his pillow the very picture of rapid decay, as thought he was hurrying to the place of the departed.

The instrument, fully completed by the signatures of the witnesses, was accordingly placed in charge of the newly appointed executor, who returned home with a feeling of self satisfaction, and of self consequence, more easily imagined than described.

A few days passed after this transaction, and Clermont was numbered with the dead—the eldest of the little orphans had a consciousness, that his earthly parents had left him forever, and wept bitterly—and Jane soon caught the broken heartedness of her brother, and her infant tears were mingled with his—while little Sue sat wondering at them both that they cried so, when 'dear papa had gone to sleep'—as she lisped it—'don't cry, bo-ber when dear papa sleeps.'

Ere a twelvemonth expired Wormsley had abandoned his own domestic altogether and quartered himself and family in Clermont House—but if his existence had depended upon giving more than one reason for this movement, he could not have done it. His own residence was comfortable, commodious, and contiguous to the estate left to his charge—while Clermont House was some distance from the confines of his own;—no, gentle readers, he had but one, and only reason, or rather impulse, and that was that as Clermont House belonged to somebody else, he as usual, longed for it and he could not make it his own property, he would go as far towards that desideratum as circumstances would admit—he would occupy it—use it—just as if it was his own.

Now it was natural that such a disposition should, occasionally, set itself to work as to how its cravings might be satisfied—and then, regardless of the admonitions of conscience, (if indeed such people have any,) stratagems are planned, and designs made, at which noble-mindedness points the finger of scorn, and justice her threatening sword of retributions.

Years rolled by, and with them rolled the increasing avarice of Jasper Wormsley—till at length it gathered itself into such an irresistible ball of covetousness that no consideration of propriety, even of humanity, could impede its course. The Clermont estate?—what! was it possible that at some future day he must relinquish it—leave it forever and age, in the hands of others? He could not support the idea.

'Pray, sir,' said William Clermont, now in his twelfth year, as he was walking with his guardian one fine summer's day, 'Pray, sir, do let me

see father's will when we reach home—I have such a desire to read it, sir.' Why will you so often ask me that William? Better mind your lessons, my lad, the will is safe enough, I assure you.

'Yes—but dear sir, I should so like to see it—just to have it in my hands' (such is childhood) 'for a little while—I never read a will. I wonder what father has said in it about me, and about sisters.'

Wormsley paused—he had never once thought before of the circumstance that the little orphans were wholly unacquainted with the contents of their father's will—nor indeed was any one else but himself for he had kept it under lock and key ever since its execution, without ever having made a reference to it a second time.

'Well, you shall see it, some of these days, William.'

Young Clermont was determined to keep him at his word—so he waited a full fortnight with a great deal of patience, and was on the point of renewing his request when his guardian came to him, as he was sitting with his sisters one morning, and handing him a paper, the appearance of which was that of no recent date, observed, 'William, you asked me some time ago, to show you your father's will—he was a fine man, William—here it is: don't tear it—bless me! it is so old! let me see—the fifteenth day of October, seventeen hundred ninety-six.'

'Very old,' said William, as he eagerly looked at the but faintly remembered writing of his father, as he carefully held it before him to peruse it.

He coned it over again and again, and at length observed, 'Yes, sir—how kind father was to give you all his fine farm; that is, when we grow up; I believe it is so, is it not, sir?'

'Aye, aye, William, that is for the trouble and expense I am at in educating you, and supporting you all, you know—Ah, my lad, you little know how dreadfully expensive it is to bring up little children. I am glad I have none of my own, William, that I am.'

The unconscious boy perused once more the instrument handed to him as the will of his father and thoughtless of the consequences to himself and sisters of being penniless as soon as they arrived at full age, for such was the import of the writing before him, he handed it complacently to his guardian, thanked him with child-like sincerity, for the perusal of it, and returned to his boyish amusements.

The will of his father!—no! my reader, the document was the production of a villain's pen dipped in the blackest gall of human depravity; a forgery, so artfully and cunningly designed to defraud the friendless orphans of their own, as to render it next to impossible that human scrutiny should unmask the deception.

With the worm of envy revelling in his heart and avarice, unsatiable avarice, spurring him on to the unholy deed, he fabricated another will in place of the genuine one, which bequeathed to himself, when the children should become of age, all the Clermont estate, in consideration, as the forgery stated, of various unpaid obligations of magnitude—in addition to all which, Wormsley was to rear, maintain, and educate the orphans committed to his charge.

The same witnesses were affixed to it, and the signature, to every appearance was that of the testator. In fine, the treacherous executor had so manufactured the deceptive document that it bore the most unequivocal appearance of being the reality, when it was in fact but a foul imposture.

From this time forward, Wormsley would frequently talk to the Clermonts of the good, kind father, and of the will, and how he used to lend their father sums of money, which his death, no doubt prevented his returning, and—but the heart loathes the recital of his many contrivances to 'make assurance doubly sure,' and of success that attended all his iniquitous schemes.

And the little ones grew up to the estate of manhood and of womanhood, and Jane, first admired, then ardently beloved, became the wife of an honorable and moderately wealthy citizen of the country, he took her for her own sake, for although it seemed strange, passing strange, that with all her father's wealth, she and her brother and sister should be left portionless, such was the commonly received report, and he gave the deprivation not a thought.

But it was otherwise with young Clermont. He could not understand why the whole of his father's vast estate should pass into the hands of another; great indeed must have been the pecuniary obligations under which his father labored, to have compelled him to grant so extensive a bequest to the utter exclusion of his own offspring; and then he had a recollection, though but an indistinct one, that the department and hearing of Mr. Wormsley toward his departed parent was that of one who had received favors, certainly not of one who had granted them. How could it be! He pondered, and pondered, and could not remember the least trace of an expression, or an action, on the part of his father, that could lead him for a moment to suppose that the disposition made of the estate was ever to take place.

Reflection on the subject made him more and more desirous of unravelling the mystery, and at length he resolved to call on his late guardian, and ask him for such an explanation of the relations which existed between him and his father, as would satisfy him of the justice and propriety of his father's will.

He accordingly repaired from his residence in the adjoining county, where he had located himself, still, pursuing the studies of a respectable profession, to the house of his birth and the scenes of his infancy, now occupied by, to him at least, the forbidding, the mysterious Jasper Wormsley.

He was received with marked reserve and cold-

ness, and it was, therefore, not long before Clermont entered upon the object of his visit, and respectfully, but earnestly, solicited the required information.

'Why, really Mr. Clermont,' said Wormsley, 'if you wish it, certainly, by all means, Mr. Clermont; I shall conceal nothing, Mr. Clermont, nothing at all, sir.'

'Then, sir, if you will be so obliging—'

'Well,—since you are so anxious to know all 'about it, and about,' as the song says, eh! Mr. Clermont, you know the old song?—very warm day this!'

'Very, sir.'

'And pray where dose your sister Jane and her good man live?'

'A few miles west of this, sir.'

'You have a fine nag there, Mr. Clermont, pray where did you meet him—bless me, 'tis a fine nag—where did you meet with him?'

'I purchased him from a friend, sir, but, sir, as my time is not altogether my own, will you favor me with—'

'Oh! aye, aye, well, as I was saying; ah! your father died,—he was a very good man, he died, let me see, ah! the will will show, yes, the will will show, I shall get it Mr. Clermont, wait a instant.'

Wormsley retired for a few minutes, and again entered with the will; 'Here it is, sir, here it is—bless me! it is an old paper is it not?—let me see: ah! the fifth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety six—that was the time Mr. Clermont, except that he signed the will first you know—there is his signature, Mr. Clermont, there it is—he was a fine man, Mr. Clermont.'

'He must have been, sir; but what I wish you to have the goodness to inform me is as to how, and on what account my dear father became so largely indebted to you?'

'Aye, aye,—but you see here are the witnesses—poor old Harrowman, he is dead too—and where is your father's man Hartley, Mr. Clermont?'

'I know not sir, will you be so obliging as to proceed?'

'Why, really, Mr. Clermont, 'tis a long story; your father owed to me many thousands, when he died; money which I lent him—many thousands Mr. Clermont.'

'And have you no evidence in your possession, you can show me, merely for my satisfaction, that such was the fact?'

'Evidence! bless bless me! evidence! oh! certainly, certainly, Mr. Clermont, a plenty, a plenty.'

'You have no objections to laying it before me?'

'Certainly not, certainly not, sir.'

'Can I see it now, sir?'

'Ah! no—not now—the next time you come, Mr. Clermont, the next time you shall have it all. Or for that matter, I will send it to you—say to-morrow or the day after.'

'Thank you, sir, I should like much to look into it, simply for my satisfaction, I do assure you, sir.'

'Certainly, certainly, sir,—to-morrow or next day?'

It was in vain to attempt at that time to get any thing further out of Wormsley, and young Clermont, therefore, took his leave, and went home rather disappointed, but waited patiently for 'to-morrow or next day,' but several to-morrows and next days came and brought not the expected message from Wormsley.

A month elapsed, and still the promised satisfactory information was withheld. Clermont became uneasy—unbosomed himself to a friend, an eminent counsellor at law; that friend heard his story with astonishment, and finally recommended to him, as a duty which he owed to himself and his sisters to reiterate his request to Mr. Wormsley, and even formerly demand the required explanation, and the evidence upon which it was founded, as a matter of unquestionable right.

But if Wormsley used prevarications and evasiveness, when asked civilly to state the desired information, the authoritative demand made for it excited his ire and wrathful displeasure; and chuckling at the idea that he had entrenched himself behind an impenetrable barrier that no mortal could remove, he gave a reply to Clermont couched in terms which, if not absolutely insulting to his feelings, were evidently dictated by a temper far from conciliatory or accommodative.

Mr. Attorney Freeland, on being made acquainted with this reply, strongly impressed upon young Clermont the apparent mystery that hung over this singular transaction. 'And, my young friend,' he continued, 'I advise you from the bottom of heart not to suffer the matter to rest here, but as you are thus denied the reasonable request you have made in a spirit of amity, I say it is your duty, you owe it to the memory of your parent, to compel this man without further delay, publicly and before a legal tribunal, to satisfy you he has a clear and honorable title to the estate he holds.'

'But, sir, the will—I have seen the will.'

'Let him, however, produce it in open court; there is, there must be in my opinion, something in this transaction not exactly correct; you are welcome to my services should you think proper to resort to the course I recommend, and that you ought to do so, is my firm and honest conviction.'

These words sunk into the heart of Clermont, and revolving in his mind the strangeness of the whole affair, and the unaccommodating disposition of the possessor of his father's estate, he at length came to the determination of pursuing his friend's advice, and immediately took the incalculable steps necessary to a suit at law for the recovery of the final surrender of the property in question.

Wormsley laughed in his sleeve at the temerity of the young man:—'Have I not,' he asked himself with confident self-complacency, 'have I not the power easily to sustain my claims?—Who shall dare to question facts, the truth or falsity of which it is impossible can be known to any earthly being but myself. Have I not shown the will, first to the children, then to Hartley, who, poor fool, recognized it instantly as the identical one he witnessed, and then to others?—And who has ever doubted its authenticity? No! it shall be shown in court, and if the young gentleman will have law, why let him have it to his cost.'

And the day of trial came, and there was Wormsley and his talented counsel, with looks that spoke the confidence of their cause, and there was young Clermont and his friend Freeland, both of them with open and honest hearts, ready to join issue and proceed with the doubtful contest.

The case was briefly opened by the latter, and the examination into the subject commenced—but one witness was present, and that was Joseph Hartly, one of those before whom old Mr. Clermont acknowledged and signed his will, the other witness had been dead some years. Hartly swore that the will produced was that made by Clermont; he remembered the form of the paper on which it was drawn, and he had no manner of doubt he said, that that was the identical will.

'Were you made acquainted with the contents Mr. Hartly, at the time?' enquired the counsel of Wormsley.

'I know that old Mr. Clermont did give all his farms to Mr. Wormsley, for I heard him say so and heard him read so, just as I and Mr. Harrowman were leaving the room.'

'Is this your signature?' asked Freeland.—'Yes!—I have no doubt that be my own handwriting, for I put it there, just where it is, over Mr. Harrowman.'

'May it please the court,' said Mr. Freeland, 'I would ask the defendant a few questions in this business, leaving it, of course, at his option whether to reply to them or not—the object of my client is to satisfy his own mind that what appears to him at present a mysterious transaction, is one of justice and plain dealing; assuming this as the fact, as I presume is doubtless done by my opponent, the defendant, I think, can have no objections: to answering the few questions I shall put to him.'

'Certainly not, certainly not,' responded Wormsley. 'I am ready to answer any thing the gentleman may desire, any thing at all. But there is the will, he may examine it again if he pleases,' he added, handing the instrument over to Freeland.

'Was this will ever recorded, sir, said the latter.

'No, sir,' replied Wormsley, 'there was no law then requiring that to be done in that part of the country; it was delivered to me for safe keeping, and has remained with me ever since; to avoid accidents, however, I shall have it placed on record immediately; but it was not then required, Sir, in our country, as I have no doubt the Court know as well as I do.'

The court nodded acquiescence.

'Pray, sir,' what was the amount of your claims upon Mr. Clermont at the time he died.

'Ah! there you are playing that young gentleman over again! he wishes so much to know the amount his poor kind father owed to me; of what use would it be for me to show in this open court the embarrassments of that kind, good man? It is what we wish to be informed, sir, and beg you will state the amount.'

'It was very considerable sir, thousands, sir, thousands, money that I loaned him, and on reference to my memorandum here, (and he took out an old, worn out pocket-book) I find, aye! I find it amounting altogether to the sum of twenty six thousand three hundred and thirty dollars forty four cents, exactly, sir, exactly.'

'Was that as much as the estate was worth?'

'Very nearly, sir; but I was to maintain and educate his children, as you will find in the will before you, sir.'

A pause ensued. Freeland examined the will the utmost scrutiny; not a letter escaped his penetrating eye; but every thing appeared fair, not an erasure nor a blot, and sworn to by the only living witness. All seemed inevitably and indubitably to fix the title in Wormsley who grinned with a self-satisfaction as Freeland pored over the document to detect a flaw, or a suspicious feature, but in vain.

'Have you any further question to ask, Sir?' inquired the court, of Freeland, 'as we must proceed with the docket.'

'Your honor will pardon me a moment,' replied the worthy counsellor, 'for trespassing upon your patience in a cause of such magnitude; but, he continued, 'still scrutinizing the will, holding it before him in various situations; as though examining the texture of the very material upon which it was written. 'But I should like to summon a witness who I conceive very important to my client's interests, and who can be obtained in half an hour, if the Court will indulge me for that space of time.'

The court acceded to the request; and a summons was issued for John Van Albee, of the Eagle Mills, adjacent to the town where the court was then in session.

He was found without difficulty, and appeared before the court, much to the wonderment and, perhaps perplexity of Wormsley, who was puzzling himself to discover what possible and was to be obtained by the testimony of one he had never before heard of, and who he thought could know no more of Mr. Clermont's will than the man in the moon. However, there he was and was duly sworn.



Your name is John Van Alsten? said Mr. Freeland.  
It is sir.  
And your profession?  
A manufacturer of paper.  
Yes, sir, said Freeland carelessly—then I presume you are a good judge as to the quality and the price of that useful article, will you have the goodness to look at this, on which this will is drawn, and just give me your opinion of it, if you please, sir?

Wormsley chuckled, and his counsel betrayed a smile of derision, while the Judges could not conceive what the learned and distinguished barrister was aiming at.  
It is good paper, sir, returned the witness, as he examined it in compliance with the request made of him—Very good paper, said he, smiling, it is some, I perceive, of my own—some of my earliest manufacture.

Some of your own manufacture, is it, Mr. Van Alsten? Pray how long have you been a maker of paper?

I commenced in the year eighteen hundred and three, sir.

In eighteen hundred and three? but you mean that you then entered into business, on your own footing? You do not mean to say that you manufactured no paper previous to that time?

I made my employer's paper, Sir, as apprentice, but none which I called my own.

What am I to understand by paper that you called your own?

Such as come from my establishment, having my name and other marks upon it.

But you manufactured paper, with your name and mark upon it as early as seventeen hundred and ninety-six, did you not sir?

Sir! said the witness in astonishment—seventeen hundred and ninety-six—why, sir, that was before I entered on my apprenticeship.

And the paper on which this will is written is your own manufacture? you are certain of that?

Aye, sir, I make oath to it confidently, for it has a private mark known only to myself, besides, sir, you observe there is my name, and the—

Year in which it was manufactured, interrupted Freeland, with an emphasis that caused Wormsley to shake to the inmost recesses of his soul. Eighteen hundred and four, he continued, as I drawn up and executed on paper which was not in existence till eight years after its date, is it not a miracle, sir, that it should be so?

Wormsley turned pale with conscious guilt, but in a moment recovering from the agitation into which he had been thrown, he thought of the possibility which still existed of escaping from this tremendous dilemma. The first copy which he had made of the fraudulent instrument not pleasing him, he drew another, and filed them both, as he supposed, carefully away together, while he gazed with irrepressible delight on the flames of his chimney fire devouring the third one. Hastily drawing another paper from his pocket, therefore, he observed,

Really, sir, a copy of that gentleman's will instead of the original—look at this, if you please, sir.

He trembled as he handed the paper over to Freeland, for it was indeed a desperate effort; the paper might or might not contain the same evidence of forgery as the other; if the former, he must have stood self-condemned, but in the latter case, he had still a chance left and a good one too of coming off conqueror over the victims of his avarice.

Freeland opened and keenly glanced at the material upon which this instrument was written under the hope of detecting a like proof, upon that also, of the ubiquitous deception; but alas! there was indeed the date of its manufacture, and that was a year anterior to the date of the instrument itself.

There is no such mark upon this, he at length said, heavily and thoughtfully.

Is there any mark? inquired one of the Judges.

Yes, your honor.

What is it?

Seventeen hundred and ninety-five.

Aye, aye, exclaimed Wormsley, chuckling, that is the real, original will, sir, that is it, sir, how ridiculous in me to hand you the copy, sir, this is the copy only, sir, which I had made some years afterwards for the purpose of—a—of—but that is the real will, sir, and he took his seat with an air of self-confidence and importance, awaiting the decision of the court.

Freeland still looked at the paper without reading it, till at length he was observed to eye it with an indescribable intensity, every feature became fixed as he gazed upon it, and then rising before the court, a smile played upon his lips as, looking steadfastly at Wormsley, he said,

You are right, sir—then with a vehement eloquence I shall not attempt to delude, he addressed the court:

Yes! may I please your honors, this is indeed the original and real will! for this instrument (which bears every mark of being genuine) places the sole right and title to the property in question to the children of Mr. Clement.

I will read it for the information of the court and of Mr. Jasper Wormsley—By the power of truth, your honors, his name should be transposed by statute and be called as he is, Silkworm Jasper; who, it is evident as the light of the blessed sun, has crawled by stealth into the bosom of the friendless orphan, there to feed and fatten on his unsuspecting spoils, to the blasting shame of human nature!

As he read the genuine will Wormsley became convulsed with maternal astonishment and confusion; he could not but believe it a miracle that a document should at that moment exist which he had with his own hand destroyed several years before! Every word of it, as Freeland proceeded with its reading, was a dagger to his covetous heart; and shaking in every nerve with the agony of self-conviction, he rushed out of the court, almost deprived of his reason.

It was entirely owing, under Providence, to an act of sheer carelessness and blind sightedness in this Silkworm as Freeland called him, that all this was brought about; the two copies he had forged and the genuine document, his cunning hands had enabled him to make so perfectly resembling each other, that a casual observer would never have noticed any difference in them.

Well, having completed his task of villainy, he placed all three, carefully folded up and endorsed, in his desk, where, in consequence of some engagement, they remained for an hour or two when suddenly called away from home, he returned to the place of their deposit, for the purpose of destroying the genuine will previously to his departure. This he did, as he supposed; but oh! righteous Heaven, thy hand was there! with an unaccountable intuition, he depended on the endorsement only, and the position in which he believed it a instrument, and destroyed, not what he intended, but one of the copies he had made. The same infuriated indifference caused him never to look into the supposed copy of the will which, as I stated, did not altogether please him, and therefore he was not aware of what he was preserving, till the (to his) dreadful trial scene in court.

And there was a spider caught in his own web for you! The very net he had spread rather enticed him so completely, that to escape was impossible. Every thing was against him, and every thing was, by inscrutable means of an overruling Providence, brought thus against him by his own doings. His own acts were the sole cause of his own condemnation; and go my reader, into the county of New-brier, and ask why a certain tract of land adjoining the Clermont estate is called Silkworm, and you will have this same veritable tale related to you, though doubtless in better terms, and of course with better effect. May the lesson it conveys be of service, and this proverb recorded, on the tablet of memory, that it is possible for a spider to be caught in his own web.

#### OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, NOVEMBER 14, 1843.

The great political party is about to be divided into two camps. The one that will be called the party of the future, and the other that will be called the party of the past. The party of the future is the party of the future, and the party of the past is the party of the past. The party of the future is the party of the future, and the party of the past is the party of the past. The party of the future is the party of the future, and the party of the past is the party of the past.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.  
JOHN C. CALHOUN.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

The vote of yesterday, so far as heard from, in the fourth Congressional District stands as follows:

OXFORD COUNTY.

	Andrews,	Morse,	Scotling
Paris,	107	61	95
Blackfield,	84	44	47
Canter,	78	39	9
Hannover,	22	18	
Hartford,	66	42	58
Dixfield,	122	49	29
Livermore,	48	19	17
Mexico,	53	12	18
Perr,	53	3	22
Rosford,	61	85	7
Sumner,	85	25	28
Turner,	110	156	131
Woodstock,	67	2	28
Andover,	45	54	19
N. Surplus,	5	2	1
Letter B,	22	1	
Byron,	41	9	
No. 5,	16	3	6

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LINCOLN COUNTY.

Bath,	167	444	16
Georgetown,	30	5	21
Topsham,	62	128	4
Greene,*	56	63	26

The above comprises all the returns up to the time our paper went to press. If there is any election we fear Morse, the federal candidate is chosen.

\*Republican County.

Mr. Shepherd Cary has been nominated in the 7th Congressional District.

JOHN Q. ADAMS. This man is on his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is to deliver an address at the laying of the corner stone of the Observatory. He has arrived at Buffalo.

ACQUITTAL. Rev. Thomas Adams of Portland, on a charge of Libel against a gentleman of that city. The libel consisted of hard sayings against the grog-shops and those who sold rum, published in the Temperance Herald of which Mr. Adams was Editor. He has had his trial before a jury and has been fully, fairly, and justly acquitted.

ANOTHER ACQUITTAL. Foss of Wayne has been acquitted on the charge of producing abortion in the case of a young woman from Gray. It will be recalled that the woman and the offspring died in the attempt. Dr. Wright of Durham was supposed to be the instigator of the crime. Foss made his escape immediately on the death of the woman but was afterwards arrested and more subsequently has had his trial. The trial took place at Augusta. The jury acquitted him for want of proof.

SNOW AND RAIN. On Saturday last we had a mixture of snow and rain. It rained in the afternoon and snowed in the evening. There is about two inches of wet snow on the ground. On Sabbath day a few sleighs were out with their bells, reminding us of winter. It has been very cold and windy since. We'll expect winter to linger for he has come. These cabbage and turnips and even a few potatoes which are out about us will, in all probability, continue out.

CALHOUN CENTRAL COMMITTEE. This body composed of three delegates chosen by the friends of John C. Calhoun, from each of the seven wards, held its first meeting and organized on the evening of the 23d ult., at New York. Edmund S. Derry, Esq., was chosen President, J. R. Brady, Secretary, and George B. Davis Treasurer. S. A. Lawrence, Dr. F. T. Ferris, F. Byrnes, Henry P. Barber and Wm. Francis were appointed a corresponding committee. The friends of the great Southern are wide awake, and rapidly perfecting a complete organization throughout the State. East Eng.

#### FOREIGN.

By the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland.  
A PROCLAMATION.

DE GREY.

Whereas it has been publicly announced, that a meeting is to take place at or near Clontarf, on Saturday, the 8th of October instant, for the alleged purpose of petitioning parliament for a repeal of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland;

And whereas, advertisements and playcards have been printed and extensively circulated, calling on those persons who propose to attend the said meeting, on horseback & form in procession, and to march to the said meeting in military order and array;

And whereas, meetings of large numbers of persons have been already held in different parts of Ireland under the like pretence, at several of which meetings language of a seditious and inflammatory nature has been addressed to the persons there assembled, calculated and intended to excite discontent and dissension in the minds of her Majesty's subjects, and to bring into hatred and contempt the government and constitution of the country as by law established;

And whereas, at some of the said meetings such seditious and inflammatory language has been used by persons who have signified their intention of being present at, and taking part in, said meeting, so announced to be held at or near Clontarf;

And whereas, the said intended meeting is calculated to excite reasonable and well grounded apprehension, that the natives and objects of the persons to be assembled there are not the law, but the exercise of constitutional rights and privileges, but to bring into hatred and contempt the government and constitution of the United Kingdom as by law established, and to accomplish alterations in the laws and constitution of the realm by intimidation and the demonstration of physical force;

Now, we, the Lord Lieutenant, by and with the advice of her Majesty's Privy Council, being satisfied that the said intended meeting, so proposed to be held at or near Clontarf, as aforesaid, can only tend to serve the ends of factious and seditious persons, and to the violation of the public peace, do hereby strictly caution and forewarn all persons whatsoever, that they do abstain from attendance at the meeting; and we do hereby give notice, that if, in defiance of this our proclamation, the said meeting shall take place, all persons attending the same shall be proceeded against according to law.

And we do hereby order and enjoin magistrates and officers entrusted with the preservation of the public peace, and others whom it may concern, to be aiding and assisting in the execution of the law in preventing the said meeting, and in the effectual dispersion and suppression of those same, and in detection and prosecution of those who, after this notice, shall offend in the respect aforesaid.

Given at the Council Chamber this 7th day of October, 1843.

Edw. B. Sugden, C. Donoghmore, E. Blackburn, E. Blakeney, T. B. C. Smith, Eliot, F. Shaw.

"God save the Queen."

O'Connell, on his arrest, issued the following Proclamation to his fellow countrymen:

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Beloved Fellow-countrymen! I announce to you that which you will hear from other quarters, namely, that I have this day given bail to answer to a conspiracy and other misdemeanors, the first day of next term. I make this announcement in order to comfort the people, one and all, to observe the strictest and most perfect tranquility. Any attempt to disturb the public peace may be the most disastrous—certainly, would be criminal and mischievous.

Attend, then, beloved countrymen to me. Be not tempted by any body to break the peace, to violate the law, or to be guilty of any tumult or disturbance. The slightest crime against order of the public peace may ruin our beautiful and tranquil case.

If you will, during the times, follow my advice, and act as I entreat you to do, patiently, quietly and legally, I think I can pledge myself to you, that the period is not far distant when our revered sovereign will open the Irish Parliament to College Green.

Every attempt of our enemies to disturb the progress of the Irish Parliament has had a direct contrary effect. This attempt will also fail, if it be not assisted by any misconduct on the part of the people.

Be tranquil, then, and we shall be triumphant—I have the honor to be, your ever faithful servant.

DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Martin Square, Oct. 14, 1843.

MISSOURI.

THE PHILADELPHIA SELECTION CASE. Our Philadelphia papers of yesterday contain the examination of Charles W. Hepburn, for the reduction of Mary Ann Keister, a young girl of sixteen, as a ready published by us. The Times says: "The girl gave her age at sixteen, but she does not fail to be more than thirteen if even that." She is small, slight, good looking, though not handsome, and appears to be possessed of a good mind, though wanting mental cultivation. Throughout the whole examination, (the cross examination alone lasting nearly an hour and half) she exhibited no feeling of fear or even

dislike towards the defendant; on the contrary, gazing upon him with a look of sorrow, as though she would reprove with a tear, what the world will condemn with a curse. During the examination, she was at times much affected, and once the alderman was obliged to suspend proceedings and close the windows, (the room was crowded and close) and send for water to keep her from fainting. Hepburn did not display any feelings of regret; on the reverse, his face was a tablet of assurance and disregard, apparent, of either the situation of his victim, or the consequences of his heartless conduct towards her. Amer.

WHEAT. The price of wheat at Chicago was 60 cents on the 18th of October.

The New York Mercury says—we send a man once and get damages—too many of them. Never'd do it again.

Washington being our midst to the Court of Spain, is in Paris. His imperial health diminished by range of scene and air. He speaks distinctly of a visit to Spain.

ANECDOTE OF A GOOSE.

In Willoughby's Ornithology we find the following striking anecdote:

The following account of a Canada goose is an extraordinary one, that I am aware it would with difficulty gain credit, were not a whole parish united to vouch for the truth of it. The Canada geese are not hard of a poultry yard, but are rather of a rambunctious disposition. One of these birds, however, was observed to attach itself, in the strongest and most affectionate manner, to a house dog, and would never quit the kennel except for the purpose of feeding, when it would return again immediately. It always sat by the dog, but never presumed to go into the kennel, except in rainy weather. Whenever the dog barked, the goose would attack and run at the person she supposed the dog barked at, and try to bite him by the heels. Sometimes she would attempt to feed with the dog; but the dog, who treated its faithful companion rather with indifference, would not permit. This bird would not go to roost with the others at night, unless driven by main force; and when to the morning she was turned into the field, she would never stir from the yard gate, but there she would stay in the sight of the dog. A few orders were given that she should be a long time unmolested, and suffered to accompany as she liked. Being left to herself, she ran about the yard with him all the night; and what is particularly extraordinary, and can be attested by the whole parish, whenever the dog went out of the yard and ran into the village, the goose always went with him, remaining in keeping up with him by the assistance of her wings; and in this way of running and flying followed him all over the parish. This extraordinary affection of the goose for the dog, which is contrary to its feelings, two years after it was first observed, is supposed to have originated from its having at accidentally saved her from a fox in the very moment of distress. While the dog was off, the goose never quitted him day or night, not even to feed; and it was apprehended she would have been started to death had not orders been given for a pan of corn to be set every day close to the kennel. At this time the goose generally sat in the kennel, and would not suffer any one to approach, except the person who brought the dog's or her own food. The end of this faithful bird was unfortunately lost when the dog died, she would still keep possession of the kennel; and a new house dog being introduced, which in size and color resembled that lately lost, the poor goose was unhappily deceived, and going into the kennel as usual, the new inhabitant seized her by the throat, and killed her.

Potatoes are selling in the market for shipment at twenty five cents a bushel. The cheapest kinds, such as the "B. James," the "Chippies," the "White Blues" &c. are a few cents higher.

More buildings have been erected in this city the present season than for any two seasons within the last five years. Bau. Courier.

The Pennsylvania State debt, already more than \$44,000,000, is increasing at the rate of over \$2,000,000 annually by the interest.

We are in the habit of speaking of the Republic of Mexico, and giving the people of that country credit for no little liberality of sentiment and some advancement in civilization, of republicanism. Yet their Constitution declares that the Mexican nation profess and will protect the Roman Catholic religion to the exclusion of all others.

The unstable and fickle South, a very orthodox clergyman of the English Church, says—"Whether a good man who is a disbeliever in some points, without any latitudes or irregularity of will, will be damned for his erroneous way of thinking, may be a question with some people; but I think it admits of none, that a man will be damned for an uncharitable way of thinking and acting."

Extraordinary Robbery. Several stores in this city having been robbed of various articles, a warrant was yesterday issued, and a married woman, stopping with her husband at one of our hotels, was arrested, the articles with others amounting to 75 or \$80 being found in her possession. What renders these robberies more remarkable is the fact that her husband is a farmer, in good circumstances, and irreproachable character. He came to the city on business, and brought her with him for her health. He is a great distress, and is endeavoring to make arrangements privately to settle the matter. The name we do not learn.

Queer. Are not the parties in this case guilty of compounding a felony. Port. Am.

#### THE ELEVATION OF MECHANICS.

It has been strange to us that the mechanics should ever be thought less deserving of respect than any other of the professions. This has been the case and even is now, to a certain extent. It is owing to this fact. They have neglected themselves. By not improving their minds and by not respecting themselves as they ought, they have suffered others to station themselves higher in public estimation than their own class, and of course they were entitled to less consideration.

The moment they began, as a distinct class, to improve themselves, by associating and establishing institutes for mutual improvement and to study into the principles not only of their own occupation but into the general laws of science, that moment they began the upward march, and they will continue to rise in proportion as they continue their exertions to throw off ignorance and put on knowledge. That the world begins to think better of them is evinced on every hand by the respect that is beginning to be extended towards them. A few years ago a mechanic was not thought fit to accept an office of any consideration; distinction, now two out of our seven candidates for Congress are practical, hard working mechanics, and one, we believe, is a farmer. This is right, we wish every member of Congress was a working, intelligent mechanic, we verily believe that the affairs of the nation would be in a better condition ere long. There would be less said and more done, and the wants of the many would be attended to, in spite of the gratification and glorification of the few. —*Atlantic Freeman.*

TRIUMPH OF MOBOCRACY.

We gave account lately of an abolition mob in Indiana, and that one of the scandalous was imprisoned. By subsequent information we learn that the armed gang of lawless ruffians, hounded together by solemn oaths of mutual protection, threatened not only to demolish the county jail, but to assault the judge and lynch the jury, unless one of their convicted companions was immediately pardoned by the Governor. They therefore had the desired effect upon his Excellency—he has granted an UNCONDITIONAL pardon to Reynolds. This act should breed with dismay the tracking Executive of Indiana. What! are we to break up meetings, without law, and then the terms to the authorities! The Governor of Indiana deserves impeachment!

Assignee's Sale.

By virtue of Decree of the District Court of the United States, for the Middle District, I will sell

AT PUBLIC AUCTION,

ON WEDNESDAY, the 2nd day of NOV. at the house of the undersigned, J. W. DANA, Esq., in New York, at 10 o'clock A. M.

All the right of Jonathan G. Dana had in the household goods, to wit: the furniture, dishes, &c. &c. of the late J. G. Dana, deceased, and belonging to the estate of the said J. G. Dana.

On the same day, at 2 o'clock P. M., at the Store of Spring & Goodwin, in Broadway, property belonging to the estate of J. W. Dana, Esq., to wit:—

His interest in the following described real estate:—

1. Lot of land in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

2. Lot of land situated in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

3. Lot of land situated in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

4. Lot of land situated in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

5. Lot of land situated in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

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40. Lot of land situated in the village of Danbury, Conn. owned by the said J. G. Dana.

Apples & C

WANTED, 500

ter Apples, & 50 bushel

cash and the highest price

subscriber.

Norway Village, Nov.

SCHOOL

At Very Low price

sale at the

OXFORD CO

Norway Village, Nov.

FALL AND WIN

AT 7

ONE PRICE

Norway Village

THE subscribers would

be pleased to receive

just received from Boston,

stock and most fashionable

Winter Goods ever offered

County. Among which are







1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26